CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for using a computer system to provide a user
    interface to a text, comprising the steps of:

    a. presenting, on a display controlled by the
       computer system, an outline of the text, wherein

       i. a word or phrase appearing in the text is an
          element of the text;

       ii. a plurality of elements of the text are
           included as elements of the outline;

       iii. each element of the outline represents a
            portion of the text;

       iv. elements of the outline comprise
           substantially less text than the entire
           text;

       v. substantially all portions of the text are
          represented by at least one element of the
          outline;

       vi. the positional and hierarchical relationship
           between the elements of the text is
           maintained on the outline; and

    b. performing, in response to a signal from a user
       of the computer system, an operation on an entire
       portion of the text represented by at least one

element of the outline.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a user the ability to select an element in the outline, such that the operation is performed on the entire portion of text referred to by the element.

3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying a result of the operation on the text represented by an element of the outline in a location on the outline corresponding to the element.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the elements of text presented on the outline relate to the structure of the text.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the outline is computer generated.

6.   The method of claim 1, further providing to the user the ability to expand and collapse items in the outline.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of the outline shown at any given time corresponds to the cursor location in the original text.

8. The method of claim 3, further providing a link to the original text from a result displayed on the outline.

9.   The method of claim 3, wherein the operation comprises reverse-indexing.of the text referred to by the outline element.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the words in the

reverse-index are provided in alphabetical order.

11.   The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises
searching within the text referred to by the outline
element.

12.   The method of claim 2, wherein the operation comprises
printing the text referred to by the outline element.

13.   The method of claim 2, wherein the operation comprises
copying the text referred to by the outline element.

14.   The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises
calculating a parameter related to the length of the text
referred to by the outline element.

15.   The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises
identifying material related to that referred to by the
outline element.

16.   The method of claim 15, wherein the operation
comprises using a reference work to look up material
contained in a portion of text referred to by the outline
element.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises
identifying annotations to the portion of text referred to
by the outline element.

18.   The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises
calculating a parameter related to the time spent viewing
text referred to by an outline element.

19.   The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises

moving the text referred to by the outline element to a
different location.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises
partially displaying text referred to by the outline
element on the outline.

21. A computer system for displaying text, comprising
    a. A display device controlled by the computer
    b. Said display device imaging a portion of text
       controlled by the computer system,
    c. an outline of the text, a portion of which is
       presented on the display device, such that:
       i. a word or phrase appearing in the text is
           an element of the text;
       ii. a plurality of elements of the text are
          included as elements of the outline;
       iii. each element of the outline represents a
          portion of the text;
       iv. elements of the outline comprise
          substantially less text than the entire
          text;
       v. substantially all portions of the text are
          represented by at least one element of the
          outline;
       vi. the positional and hierarchical relationship
          between the elements of the text is

maintained on the outline; and

d. a mechanism to respond to a signal from a user of

the computer system by performing an operation on

an entire portion of the text represented by at

5   least one element of the outline.

22.   A computer memory storage device encoded with a

computer program for using a computer system to display

electronic text comprising:

a. an outline of the text, such that:

10   i.   a word or phrase appearing in the text is

an element of the text;

ii.   a plurality of elements of the text are

included as elements of the outline;

iii. each element of the outline represents a

portion of the text;

iv.   elements of the outline comprise

substantially less text than the entire

text;

v.   substantially all portions of the text are

20   represent by at least one element of the

outline;

vi.   the positional and hierarchical relationship

between the elements of the text is

maintained on the outline; and

25   b. a mechanism to respond to a signal from a user of

the computer system by performing an operation on
an entire portion of the text represented by at
least one element of the outline.

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